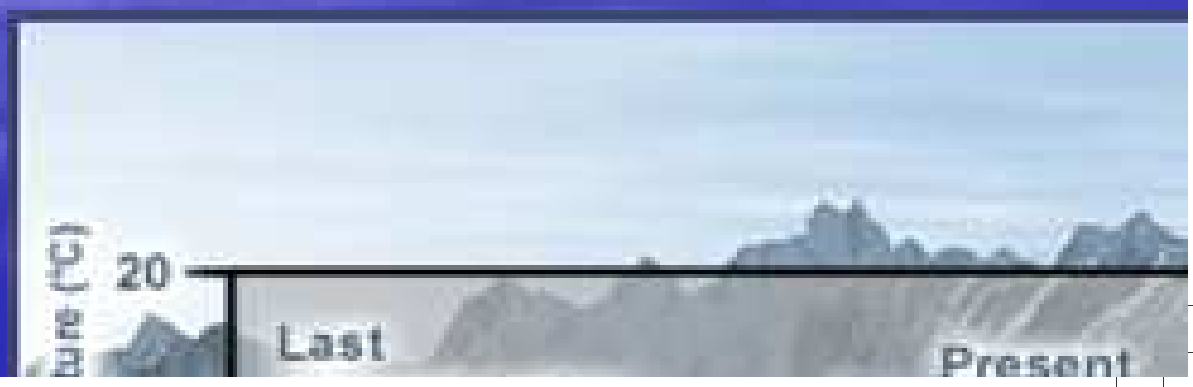
GLOBAL

Wha

Global Warming: Global warming refers
average increase in the Earth's tempera
which in turn causes changes in climat
warmer Earth may lead to changes in ra
patterns, a rise in sea level, and a wide
of impacts on plants, wildlife, and huma
When scientists talk about the issue of
change, their concern is about global w
caused by human activities.



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Earth has warmed by about 1° F ove
past 100 years. But why? And how?
Well, scientists are not exactly sure
The Earth could be getting warmer o
its own, but many of the world's lea
climate scientists think that things
people do are helping to make the E
warmer.

You can mak
a difference

Earth's climate has been changing constantl
its 5-billion-year history. Sometimes, the clim
has warmed so that the oceans have risen a
covered much of the Earth and cooled so tha
of the planet was encased under ice and sno

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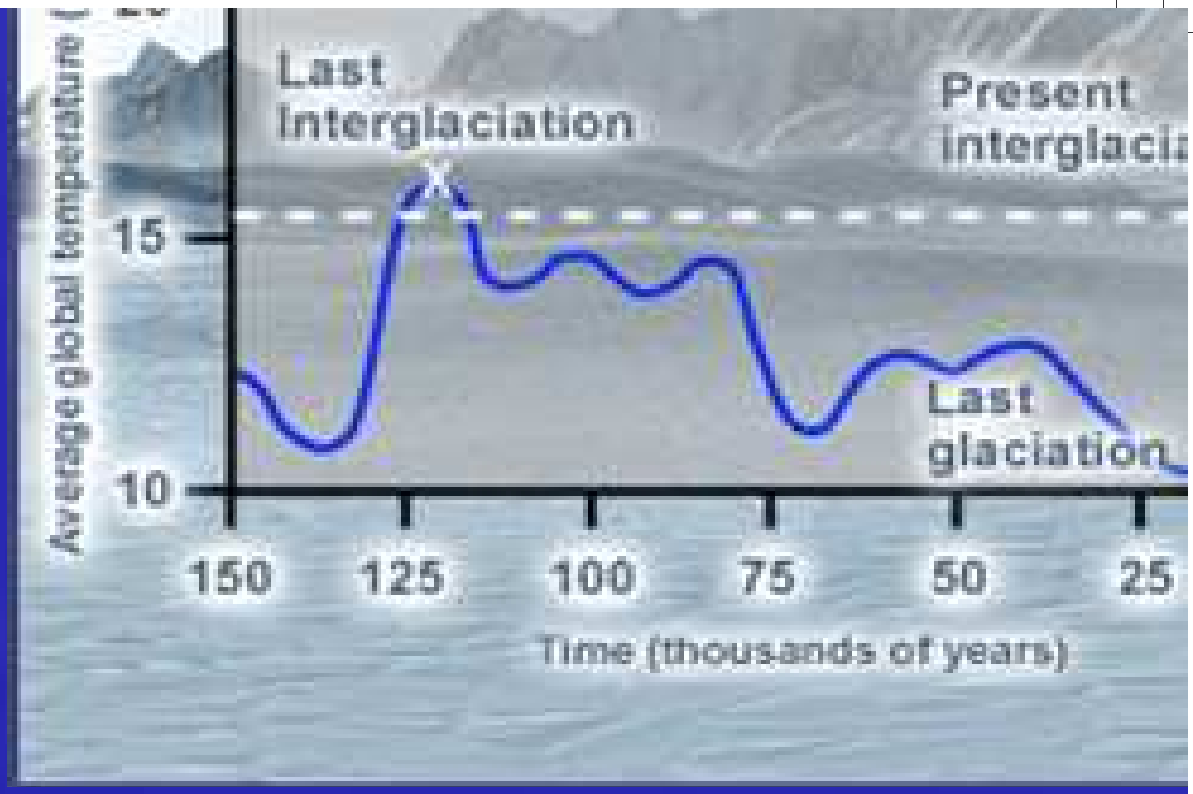
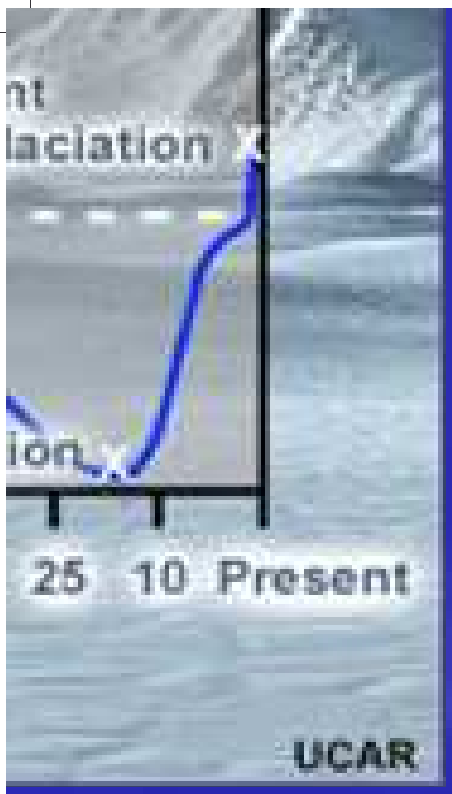


Rising Sea Level: **have you ever built a sandcastle beach, close to the ocean on wet sand? If you hav probably know that the sandcastle won't last very Chances are the waves will wash away the sandc soon as the tide comes in. The water goes higher beach when the tide comes in. At most shores thr the world, two high tides and two low tides occur day. But now the level of the sea is rising, so high are higher than they were before. Over the last 10 the level of the sea has risen about 6-8 inches wo When the sea level rises, the tide goes farther up beach. Scientists think the sea has risen partly be melting glaciers and sea ice. When some glaciers they release water into the sea and make it highe was before. Scientists also think that warmer temperatures in the sea make it rise even more. H makes water expand. When the ocean expands, it up more space.**

What Might Happen? **Scientists are not fortune-tel They don't know exactly what will happen in the f But they can use special computer programs to fi**



has warmed so that the oceans have risen a
covered much of the Earth and cooled so tha
of the planet was encased under ice and sno
Each of the changes may seem extreme, but
usually occurred slowly over many thousand
years. The Earth has warmed about 1°F in th
100 years. And the four warmest years of the
century all happened in the 1990s. Periods o
increased heat from the sun may have helpe
make the Earth warmer. But many of the wo
leading climatologists think that the greenho
gases people produce are making the Earth
warmer, too.

Melting Glaciers: a glacier is a large sheet of
that moves very, very slowly. Many glaciers i
world are now melting. For example, glaciers
melting in Montana's Glacier National Park. S
scientists think the glaciers are melting part
because the Earth is getting warmer.

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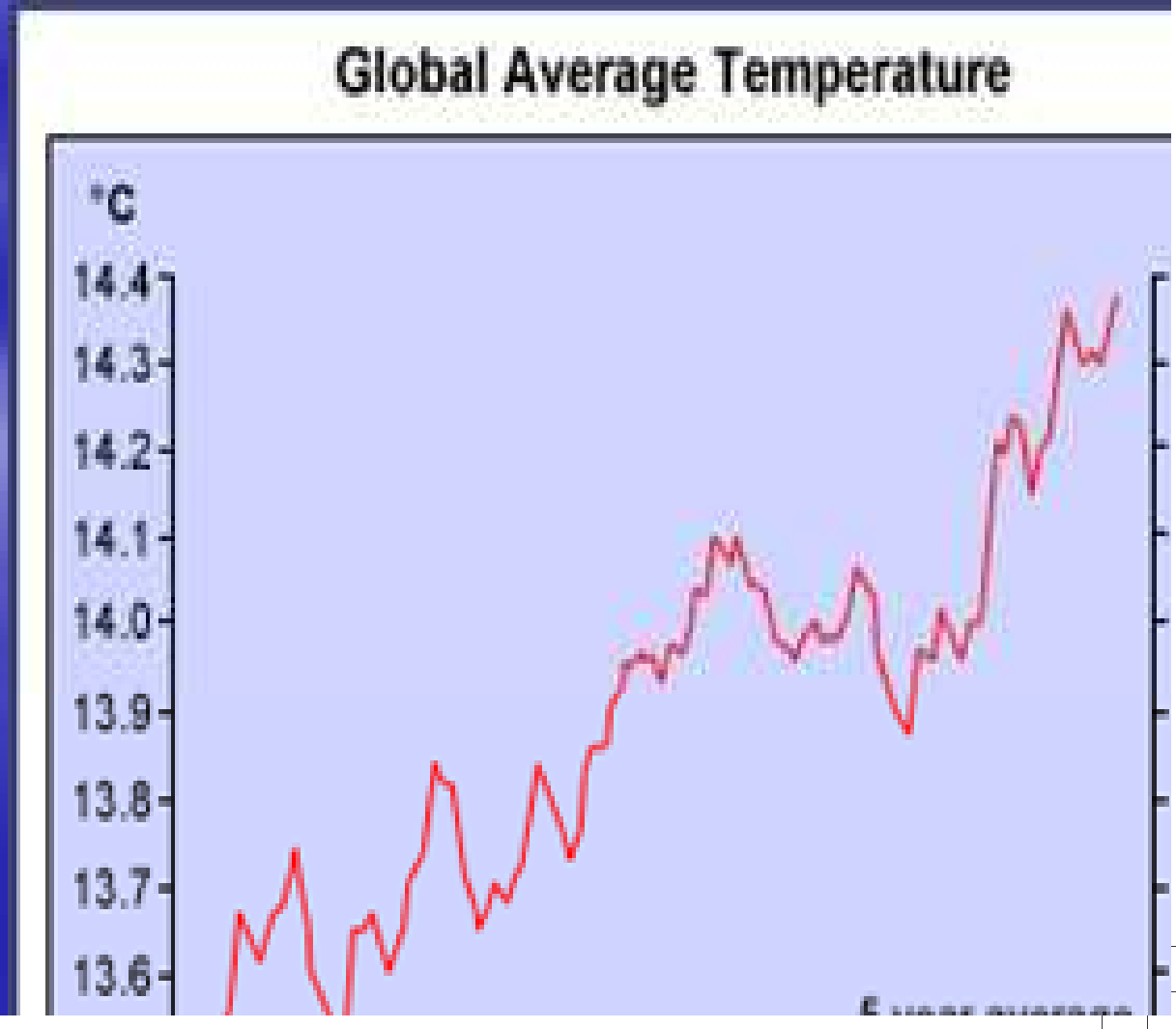

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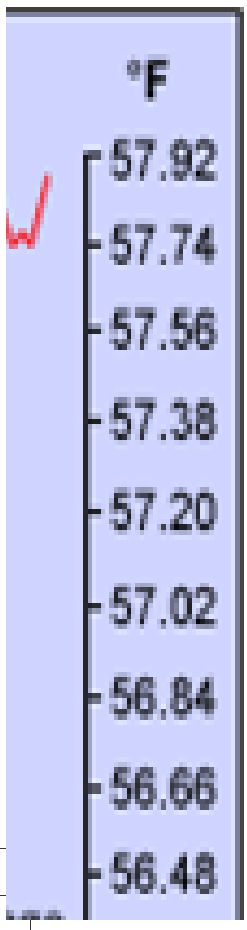

They don't know exactly what will happen in the fu
But they can use special computer programs to fin
how the climate may change in the years ahead. A
computer programs tell us that the Earth may cont
get warmer. Together, the melting glaciers, rising
and computer models provide some good clues. Th
us that the Earth's temperature will probably conti
rise as long as we continue increasing the amount
greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

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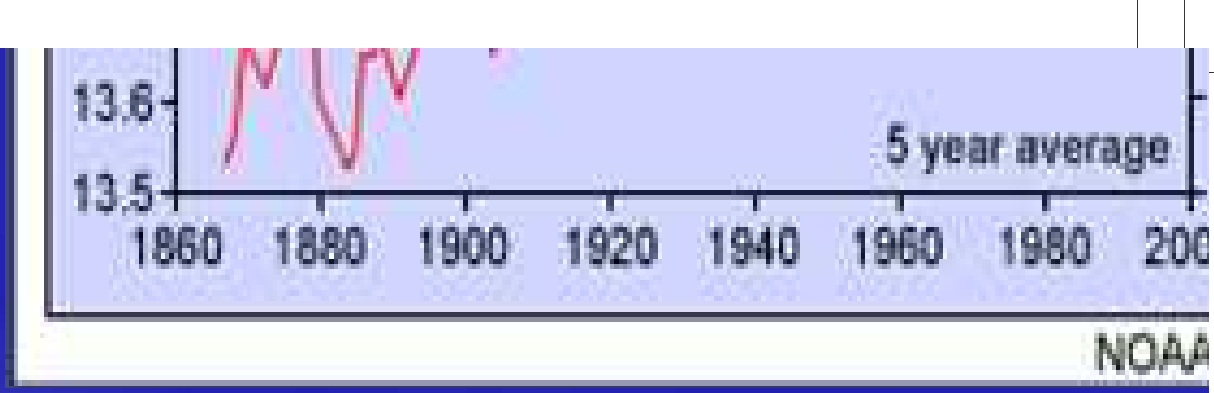
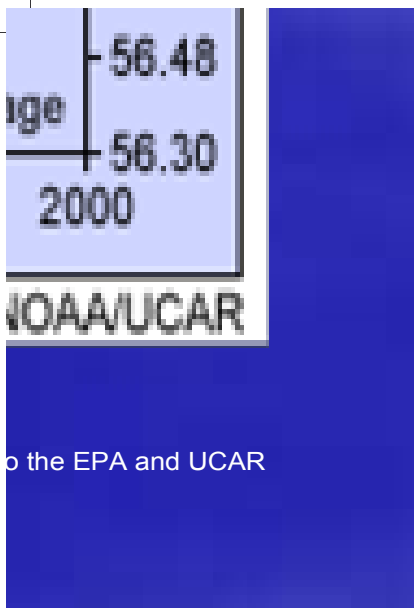


Special Thanks to the EP



o the EPA and UCAR